

SELECTIONS
FROM THE
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS
PUBLISHED IN THE PUNJAB,
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,
OUDH, AND CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received up to 8th July, 1872.

POLITICAL (DOMESTIC).

The *Aina-i-Aib-Numá-i-Hind*, of the 17th June, complains of the idle habits of tehseeldars and the indifferent way in which they discharge their duties.

Their want of regularity in attending office is seriously complained of, and the entire absence of method in the conduct of their duties.

The *Rohilkhund Akhbár*, of the 22nd June, states, on the authority of a correspondent at Ghazeepore, that several serious cases of theft have recently happened in that city. One which took place at the house of Takoor Kulwar, resident of Mohulla Nawabgunj, in which the amount of loss is said to have been Rs. 6,300, is particularly mentioned. The police are engaged in making enquiries.

The *Khair Khwah-i-Panjáb*, of the same date, suggests the desirability of issuing an order prohibiting persons from adding to their names such titles as are conferred by Government only on those who distinguish themselves in any way. In the absence of such an order, many persons assume honorary titles to which they have no right.

The *Oudh Akhbâr*, of the 25th June, in its correspondence columns, has the following under the heading "Umritsur:—"

A person was drowned in the tank situated near the Ram Bagh gate. Incidents of this kind frequently happen at the tanks in the city, and it would, therefore, be well if the Municipal Committee were to take the necessary steps for putting a stop to them.

Thefts are very common in the city. An important case of burglary occurred at the house of Bhaee Bustee Ram, in which Rs. 2,000 worth of property was carried away. Cases of minor importance are numerous. In one of these a thief took away a string of precious beads from the neck of a person in open day, but was arrested.

The management of the conservancy of the city, which was formerly entrusted to a contractor, and cost Rs. 1,000 a month, has now been taken by Government into its own hands—the cost having increased to Rs. 4,000 ; but notwithstanding this, with the exception of the part of the city lying towards the Ram Bagh gate, which is frequented by European Officers, all other streets and lanes remain in their usual state of filth.

The number of prostitutes has increased in consequence of the new-comers from Lahore, who have been forced to quit that city on account of the Contagious Diseases Act having been re-enforced there, and to seek refuge at Umritsur.

The same paper complains that the order prohibiting foreigners from entering the city of Asseergurh (Central Provinces), passed by the Cantonment Magistrate some months ago, at a time when cholera was raging in Khundwah and Burhanpore, is still in force, although the disease has entirely disappeared. Natives of the city, returning home from a journey are still made to stay three days outside the city, and subjected to an examination by a doctor appointed for the purpose, before being permitted to enter it, and with the exception of grain, the importation of all other articles into the city is prohibited.

As Asseergurh is situated on the Grand Trunk Road, the order has proved to be a source of the greatest inconvenience to travellers, who have to go by difficult and circuitous routes. The writer fails to see why it has been allowed to continue in force, and blames the Cantonment Magistrate.

In its column of local news, the *Shola-i-Túr* states that two mahajuns—one Marwaree and the other Hindoostanee—have set up as bankrupts in the city (Cawnpore), the amount of their debts being Rs. 100,000 and 9,000 respectively. The editor remarks that bankruptcy has now become such a common artifice for embezzling money, that every year some persons resort to it. (For articles on this subject, see pp. 349-50 of the *Selections* for the week ending 8th July last.)

The *Akhbár-i-Anjuman-i-Punjáb*, of the 28th June, in a long leader, dwells on the need of making the public acquainted with the provisions of the laws and regulations passed by Government from time to time. It is stated that, useful as these laws are, they can be of no avail, unless those for whose benefit they are made, and whose rights and privileges they are intended to preserve and defend, are made acquainted with them. For want of such knowledge the people incur unnecessary losses and are deprived of their just rights—a fact which the writer illustrates at some length, by numerous examples,—and thus the object with which the laws are made is entirely defeated. In order to remove the defect and afford facilities for acquiring a knowledge of the laws, the writer suggests the following plans :—

(a) The language of the Acts and Regulations, which is mostly obscure and intricate, should be made clear and simple, so as to be intelligible to all. During the latter portion of Lord Mayo's time attention was paid to this point, and an attempt has been made to have future laws written in an easy and simple language, and to elucidate the meaning of such parts of them as may be intricate by means of notes and illustrations. To this it is owing that the Law of Evidence,

the Criminal Procedure Code, and the Act relating to contracts, which have been passed by the Legislative Council this year, are expressed in intelligible language. But notwithstanding this, the wording of the laws in general continues to be obscure, instead of being clear and explicit.

(b) Acts and Regulations—an acquaintance with which is necessary to people of the different classes in their daily concerns of life, such for instance as the Act relating to cultivators, the Limitation Act, the Act relating to the Rules and Regulations for the Punjab for 1872, the Stamp Act, and the like—should be rendered into plain and simple Urdu, Hindi, and other vernacular languages, and the treatises thus prepared should be printed and circulated among the people concerned.

(c) Whenever any new Act or Regulation is enforced, or an old one is amended or superseded, the public should be made acquainted with the changes. This should be done in the following manner:—The Magistrates or Deputy Commissioners of each district should hold public meetings at all the Sudder Tehseels in their jurisdiction, at which the jagheerdars, zemindars, &c., and men of business, such as mahajuns, dealers, and others of all places included in each tehseel should be permitted to attend. The principles and provisions of the new Acts, and the changes and reforms made in the old, should be explained in plain language. (For another article on the same subject, which appeared in this paper, see pp. 536-38 of the *Selections* for the week ending 16th September last.)

The *Lauh-i-Mahfuz*, of the same date, has an article on the means for the preservation of health. The drift is that of the three essentials for health, viz., pure air, wholesome food, and pure water, Government pays exclusive attention to the reform of the first, and entirely neglects that of the other two. The writer admits that air is more essential to life than food and drink, but since food and drink are equally needful for the

support of life, it is of importance that their purity and wholesomeness should be attended to equally with that of air. The following defects strike the writer as most prominent and in need of reform :—

(a) The water of wells, which is so extensively used for drinking purposes in most cities and towns, is either unwholesome, or becomes so by the mixture of extraneous impurities. In order to remove the defect, all the wells in each city and town should be examined by doctors, and those of them in which the water may be found on examination to be essentially bad should be closed up, and the rest in which the water should have become unwholesome by the mixture of foreign matter should be cleansed, arrangements being made at the same time to prevent their water from becoming again impure.

(b) The sale of unwholesome and spurious articles of food such as putrid grain—that is, grain which has been long kept in store—adulterated milk and ghee, bad sweetmeats, and unwholesome flesh, or the flesh of sickly and diseased cattle.

(c) The practice of manuring fields of corn and vegetables with filth.

Municipal Committees are asked to attend to the above abuses, and adopt measures for reforming them by appointing sub-committees to act under them.

A correspondent of the same paper, writing from Bareilly, reports that two Hindoo lads, the nephews of a Hindoo gentleman of high position, have been converted to Islam. This incident has caused a great stir in the city, and served to revive the ill-feeling existing between the Hindoos and Mussalmans. The Moulvie, or the tutor of the lads, who is suspected to have been the chief agent in instigating them to forsake the Hindoo religion and turn Mussalmans, is under arrest, and the case is under consideration.

The correspondent adds, that in this year ten Hindoos of the city have adopted the Mahomedan faith, and that several

young boys are intent on following the example, and are only waiting to know the result of the above case.

The *Muhibb-i-Márwár*, of the 1st July, also refers to the same case of conversion to Islam. The boys are stated to be the relatives of Baboo Raj Kishen, Settlement Deputy Collector of Bareilly, and to have embraced Islam at the instigation of a Moulvie.

A Ghazeepore correspondent of the *Lauh-i-Mahfúz*, of the 28th June, notices the case of a woman of the Aheer caste, who was ravished by a Dom and then murdered. The offender is under arrest.

The correspondent remarks that persons of the Dom caste living at Ghazeepore are notorious robbers and *budmashes*—a fact which he supports by alluding to the case of two other men of the tribe, who last year killed a barber for the sake of some property, and were hanged.

In its column of local news, the same paper states that the drains in the streets of the mohulla in which the *Riyaz-i-Nur* Press is situated, on account of being kutcha in many places on one side, remain dirty and emit a bad smell, thereby causing great inconvenience to the residents of the mohulla as well as to passengers.

An Umritsur correspondent of the *Koh-i-Núr*, of the 29th June, states that persons of bad livelihood abound in that city, and do much harm to the residents. They forge fabricated complaints against persons, and appear in Court to give false evidence on a trifling remuneration of two or three annas daily. The writer thinks that the attention of the authorities ought to be directed to the matter.

The *Punjábí Akhbár*, of the same date, reports that a new tank has been constructed at Sealkote, at the instance and under the supervision of Syud Wazeer Ali, Extra Assistant Commissioner, and that the work is nearly finished. The cost incurred has been collected by subscriptions raised from the

Native gentlemen of the district, the officials of Government offices having contributed in the proportion of 5 per cent. of their pay.

The same paper, referring to the recent distinctions conferred on Dr. Leitner, M.A., Ph. D., by the Emperor of Germany, and the Oriental Society of France, the former having invested him with the dignity of the *Order of the Crown*, and the latter having selected him to be its member, again asks Government to do justice to the doctor by giving some proof of its appreciation of his distinguished services in the cause of learning. The editor joins with his contemporaries (*vide* p. 310, para. 1, of the *Selections* for the week ending 20th June last) in thinking it a great pity that while other European States have been foremost in conferring honors and titles on the doctor, the English Government, on whom he has special claims, and who made liberal promises to him when inviting him from Europe to fill the office of Principal, should have hitherto failed to recognize his eminent services.

The attention of Government is invited to this.

POLITICAL (FOREIGN).

The *Gwalior Gazette*, of the 23rd June, learns from a contemporary that a case of *suttee* has happened in Bikanere, and that the ceremony was attended with great show and pomp.

In its correspondence columns the *Majma-ul-Baharain* has the following :—

CABUL.—The Ameer has issued orders for the transfer of troops, those stationed at Cabul being under orders to change places with the Jelalabad force, and those at Turkistan with the Candahar or Herat force.

The profits realized from ticket and stamps fees amount to a considerable sum, the income for a single month reaching as much as Rs. 40,825. The Ameer is pleased with the addition which this new source of revenue makes to his coffers, so much so that he is now happy and cheerful at all times, and takes an

active interest in the welfare of his subjects. The price of grain, which had risen high, has been lowered by means of a public proclamation; and, in order to put a check to thefts and robberies, which were very prevalent, guards have been stationed at different places, and a body of horsemen have been appointed to patrol the streets at night, while the Ameer himself often goes round the city in disguise, in order to satisfy himself that all is going on well.

These measures have proved useful in putting a stop to thefts; but the writer warns the Ameer of the danger of making nocturnal excursions through the city.

HERAT.—Cholera is raging in and around the city. Last year famine and cholera were very prevalent. The distress caused by these visitations had scarcely ended, when cholera again broke out this year. There is no knowing to what state the city will be reduced. According to the correspondent's statement, the number of deaths which have happened in the city since the commencement of the disease, which dates from the 26th April last, amounts to about 5,000.

The *Oudh Akhbár*, of the 25th June, has been informed that a rich man at Baroda is zealously espousing the cause of widow marriage, and is inducing Hindoos to marry widows. It has also heard that Maharaja Mulhar Rao has sent word to the widow of Gopal Rao Myral, his late Prime Minister, that unless she pays a consideration of Rs. 10,000,000 she will not be permitted to adopt a son.

The *Vidyá Vilás*, of the 27th June, asserts that cholera has entirely disappeared from Jummoo, and that the inhabitants of the city, who had quitted their homes through fear of the disease, and taken up their residence in the villages and other places around it, are returning.

Great attention continues to be paid to the cleanliness of the streets and lanes of the city, and the sale of vegetables and green fruits—such as mangoes, melons, peaches, &c.—is still prohibited, for fear lest the disease may again break out.

The *Panjábi Akhbár*, of the 29th June, states, on the authority of a correspondent, that the Rajah of Nabha is practising great extortions and oppression on his subjects, so much so that all the rich and respectable persons among them have privately arranged to quit the state and settle in Munsoorpore in the dominions of the Maharajah of Puttiala, who is said to have promised to assist them by pecuniary and landed grants, according to the rank and position of each— zemindars, for instance, having been offered 100 maunds of grain and a pair of bullocks each. A party of zemindars had even made all the necessary preparations a few days ago for quitting the city with their families and property, and were on the point of starting when Wuzeer Ali, Tehseeldar, becoming aware of this, prevailed upon them by entreaties and expostulations to abandon their intention.

The Rajah is also blamed for acquitting grave offenders, who possess wealth and property enough to satisfy his rapacity. As instances of this, it is stated that Budhoo, a brazier, who was convicted of the murder of Kishna, has been hanged, while Mussumat Ghungnee and other persons, who were his accomplices in the crime, have received no other punishment than confiscation of property— a mode of punishment to which the writer objects. He adds that had Budhoo been a rich man, he would have been acquitted.

In the other case, one Choohiya, a sugar-baker, who killed his wife and child, escaped without punishment.

It is added, that the Rajah contemplates passing an order to the effect that whenever any of his higher officers pass through the bazaar, all the shopkeepers should stand up to pay their respects.

COMMERCIAL.

The *Meerut Gazette*, of the 22nd June, notices the oppressive action of the Sindh, Punjab, and Delhi Railway Companies. The particulars, as related by a correspondent of the *Koh-i-Núr*, who was himself one of the sufferers, are these :— The 4 P.M. down train, which started from Lahore on the 8th

June, had scarcely left the Akarah Station, when, in consequence of the absence of a pointsman, who had come under reduction, the engine with five carriages got off the line. The Railway officials, finding it difficult at the time to replace the engine, were obliged to leave the train the whole night in the state in which it was. As for the passengers, they had to remain pent and locked up the whole night within the carriages like prisoners, in many cases without even getting water—there being only one bhistee and no Hindoo at the Station for supplying passengers with water. The correspondent depicts in vivid colours the distress suffered by the passengers, and especially the women and children, who were kept shut up in the carriages all night, and censures the Railway officials.

The Railway authorities are asked to institute enquiries into the grievance, and make the necessary arrangements in order to avoid a recurrence thereof.

EDUCATIONAL.

The *Akmal-ul-Akhhár*, of the 23rd June, comments on the order issued by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to the Director of Public Instruction, directing that the Urdu books in use in the schools in the Province of Behar should be superseded by others written in a popular Urdu style. It is remarked that according to the Lieutenant-Governor, the language spoken by khidmutgars, or butchers and green-grocers, seems to be the popular Urdu of the day, and that, if such is His Honor's notion, he is very much mistaken. The writer refers to the correspondence which passed on the subject between Mr. Campbell and the Syndicate of the Calcutta University, and expresses his approval of the opinion expressed by the latter that the language spoken and written by Ghalib of Delhi is a pure type of Urdu properly so called, and not the language spoken by Europeans in conversing with their servants. He concludes with the remark that, if Mr. Campbell were to take exception to books written in the Urdu, which is too much mixed up with Persian and Arabic phraseology, such as that used by the Chiefs of Loharoo in conversation, or that which charac-

terizes the *Gulistan-i-Sukhun*, it would be right and proper; but that if it is his object to call in question the Urdu in which the *Bagh-o-Bahár*, or the *Díváns* of Ghalib, Momin, and Zauk are written, he is quite mistaken. He ought to know that in the estimation of the learned Natives the style in which books such as these are written is the model and standard of pure and elegant Urdu.

The following Vernacular newspapers have been received up to 8th July, 1872 :—

No.	NAME OF NEWSPAPER.	LANGUAGE.	LOCALITY.	WHEN PUBLISHED.	DATE.	DATE OF RECEIPT.
1	<i>Naf'-ul-Azém,</i>	Arabic,	Lahore,	Weekly,	1872.	1872.
2	<i>Aína-i-Aib-Numá-i-Hind,</i>	Urdu,	Ditto,	Ditto,	June, 11th	July, 1st
3	<i>Latíf-ul-Akhhár,</i>	Ditto,	Ditto,	Ditto,	" 17th	" 1st
4	<i>Koh-i-Túr,</i>	Ditto,	Ditto,	Ditto,	" 17th	" 1st
5	<i>Nur-ul-Anwar,</i>	Ditto,	Cawnpore,	Ditto,	" 18th	" 5th
6	<i>Meerut Gazette,</i>	Ditto,	Meerut,	Ditto,	" 22nd	June, 22nd
7	<i>Rohilkhund Akhhár,</i>	Ditto,	Mooradabad,	Ditto,	" 22nd	" 24th
8	<i>Majmá-ul-Bahrain,</i>	Ditto,	Loodhiana.	Ditto,	" 22nd	" 26th
9	<i>Akmal-ul-Akhhár,</i>	Ditto,	Delhi,	Ditto,	" 23rd	" 26th
10	<i>Gwalior Gazette,</i>	Urdu-Hindi,	Gwalior,	Ditto,	" 23rd	" 27th
11	<i>Urdú Akhhár,</i>	Urdu,	Delhi,	Ditto,	" 23rd	" 28th
12	<i>Khair Khwah-i-Panjab,</i>	Ditto,	Gujranwalla,	Ditto,	" 24th	" 27th
13	<i>Pattialá Akhhár,</i>	Ditto,	Pattiala,	Ditto,	" 24th	" 27th
14	<i>Najm-ul-Akhhár,</i>	Ditto,	Meerut,	Ditto,	" 24th	July, 1st
15	<i>Jalwa-i-Túr,</i>	Ditto,	Ditto,	Ditto,	" 24th	" 1st
16	<i>Hindi Marvár Gazette,</i>	Hindi,	Jodhpore,	Ditto,	" 24th	" 1st
17	<i>Urdu ditto,</i>	Urdu,	Ditto,	Ditto,	" 24th	" 2nd
18	<i>Oudh Akhhár,</i>	Ditto,	Lucknow,	Bi-weekly,	" 24th	" 2nd
19	<i>Shola-i-Túr,</i>	Ditto,	Cawnpore,	Weekly,	" 25th	June, 27th
20	<i>Naf'-ul-Azém,</i>	Arabic,	Lahore,	Ditto,	" 25th	July, 28th
21	<i>Koh-i-Túr,</i>	Urdu,	Ditto,	Ditto,	" 25th	" 1st
22	<i>Akhhár-i-Alam,</i>	Ditto,	Meerut,	Ditto,	" 25th	" 5th
23	<i>Benares Akhhár,</i>	Hindi,	Benares,	Ditto,	" 27th	" 1st
24	<i>Shams-ul-Akhhár,</i>	Urdu,	Lucknow,	Bi-monthly,	" 27th	" 1st
25	<i>Vidyá Vilás,</i>	Urdu-Dogrit,	Jummoo,	Weekly,	" 27th	" 1st
26	<i>Lawrence Gazette,</i>	Urdu,	Meerut,	Ditto,	" 28th	" 4th
27	<i>Oudh Akhhár,</i>	Ditto,	Lucknow,	Bi-weekly,	" 28th	" 1st
28	<i>Mukhbir-i-Sádiq,</i>	Ditto,	Ditto,	Weekly,	" 28th	" 1st
29	<i>Allygurh Institute Gazette,</i>	Urdu-English,	Allygurh,	Ditto,	" 28th	" 2nd

30	Muir Gazette,	...	Ditto,	...	Meerut,	...	Ditto,	...	...	28th	"	2nd
31	Rajputana Social Science Congress Gazette.	...	Ditto,	...	Jeypore,	...	Ditto,	...	...	28th	"	2nd
32	Akhbār-i-Anjuman-i-Panjāb,	...	Ditto,	...	Lahore,	...	Ditto,	...	...	28th	"	4th
33	Lauh-i-Mahfūz,	...	Ditto,	...	Moradabad,	...	Ditto,	...	...	28th	"	5th
34	Supplement to Lawrence Gazette,	...	Ditto,	...	Meerut,	...	Ditto,	...	...	4th week	"	1st
35	Meerut Gazette,	...	Ditto,	...	Ditto,	...	Ditto,	...	...	29th	"	1st
36	Akhbār-i-Anjuman-i-Hind,	...	Ditto,	...	Lucknow,	...	Ditto,	...	...	29th	"	1st
37	Urdu Delhi Gazette,	...	Ditto,	...	Agra,	...	Ditto,	...	...	29th	"	1st
38	Koh-i-Nūr,	...	Ditto,	...	Lahore,	...	Ditto,	...	...	29th	"	2nd
39	Rohilkhand Akhbār,	...	Ditto,	...	Moradabad,	...	Ditto,	...	...	29th	"	2nd
40	Panjābī Akhbār,	...	Ditto,	...	Lahore,	...	Ditto,	...	...	29th	"	4th
41	Samaya Vinod,	...	Urdu-Hindi,	...	Nynee Tal,	...	Bi-monthly,	...	...	1st	July,	4th
42	Amr-ul-Akhbār,	...	Urdu,	...	Loharoo,	...	Ditto,	...	...	1st	"	4th
43	Dabdaba-i-Sikandarī,	...	Ditto,	...	Rampore,	...	Weekly,	...	...	1st	"	4th
44	Shu'ā'-i-Mihr,	...	Ditto,	...	Delhi,	...	Ditto,	...	...	1st	"	5th
45	Urdu Akhbār,	...	Ditto,	...	Ditto,	...	Ditto,	...	...	1st	"	5th
46	Khurshed-i-Jahāntāb,	...	Ditto,	...	Agra,	...	Bi-monthly,	...	...	1st	"	6th
47	Mayo Gazette,	...	Ditto,	...	Delhi,	...	Tri-monthly,	...	...	1st	"	6th
48	Saunders's Gazette,	...	Ditto,	...	Shahjehanpore,	...	Weekly,	...	...	1st	"	6th
49	Patiala Akhbār,	...	Ditto,	...	Puttiala,	...	Ditto,	...	...	1st	"	8th
50	Oudh Akhbar,	...	Ditto,	...	Lucknow,	...	Bi-weekly,	...	...	2nd	"	3rd
51	Matla-i-Nūr,	...	Ditto,	...	Cawnpore,	...	Weekly,	...	...	2nd	"	4th
52	Nasim-i-Jounpore,	...	Ditto,	...	Jounpore,	...	Ditto,	...	...	2nd	"	5th
53	Akhbār-i-Am,	...	Ditto,	...	Lahore,	...	Ditto,	...	...	3rd	"	8th
54	Benures Akhbār,	...	Hindi,	...	Benares,	...	Ditto,	4th	"	8th

ALLAHABAD:

The 19th July, 1872.

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